Extension of Electrification in South Central Railway

4003. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent electrification has been extended in South Central Railway in the Eighth Five Year Plan period;

(b) whether further work in electrification will be done during the remaining period of Eighth Five Year Plan;

(c) whether any precautions are being taken by South Central Railway to avoid problems when power supply fails;

(d) whether it is a fact that backup system has been prepared to avoid repetition of the consequences of power failure in June, 1994; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) 69 route kilometre have been electrified so far during VIII Plan.

(b) 375 route kilometre are planned for electrification.

(c) In the event of failure of power supply to any one Traction Substation, arrangements exist to extend the power supply from adjacent Traction Substation.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Introduction of Air brake Coaches

4004. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY : Will the Minister RAILWAYS of be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that South Central Railway have introduced Air Brake Coaches to enhance safety in 1993-94 and the current year;

(b) if so, how many such coaches were introduced in 1993-94;

(c) what other safety measures have been introduced; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). Prescribed schedules of maintenance are being monitored in the Maintenance Depots during primary/ secondary maintenance.

Running of New Trains

4005. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have introduced 336 new trains including Rajdhanis and Shatabdis;

(b) if so, how many Rajdhanis and Shatabdis were introduced in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir. During 1991-92 to 1994-95 (Upto 26.6.1994).

(b) and (c). 2429/2430 Hazrat Nizamuddin Secunderabad Bangalore Rajdhani Express and 2431/2432 Hazrat NizamuddinTrivandrum Rajdhani Express serve Andhra Pradesh also.

Bungling in Railway Reservations

4006. SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state·

(a) whether Government's attention has been invited to the press report published in the "Janasatta' of May 27, 1994 alleging bungling of crores of rupees in Railway reservations and the difficulties faced by public in April, May 1994; if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto;

(b) whether Government are aware of the activities of the tours in the New Delhi Railway reservation office as well as other metropolitan towns and if so, what effective steps have been taken over the years to ban their activities;

(c) whether Government are aware that the change of the token system has caused much inconvenience and whether representations have been made to restore the same and with what results; and

(d) whether any instances of manipulation in the computerised system of reservation have come to the notice of Government; and if so, the details and what action has been taken?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir. The news item related to summer season reservations in Bombay area, which were looked into and resolved.

(b) Yes, Sir. To prevent their activities, checks by Commiercial, Vigilance, RPF and GRP staff continue at reservation offices, platforms and trains. As a result, during 1993-94, 2158 touts were apprehended and prosecuted and 6185 passengers travelling on transferred tickets were detected and penalised.

(c) Token system was introduced at New Delhi Reservation office in the interest of public convenience. However, on account of complaint of its misuse by touts, it was discontinued in March' 94.

(d) No, Sir. Does not arise.

Functioning of Koraput Raygada rail line

4007. SHRI PRAVAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the probable date by when the Koraput Raygada rail line is proposed to be opened to traffic;

(b) the number of occasions (date wise) on which the above programme has been rescheduled; and

(c) the reasons for rescheduling the same?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (c) The programme of opening had to be rescheduled from 1992-93 to 1993-94 and again to 1994-95 owing to unforseen geological problems in tunnel No. 23 which required import of special equipment and technology. The work is not progressing well and is expected to be completed by end of March' 95.

Losses suffered by Metro Railways, Calcutta

4008. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Metro Railways at Calcutta has been suffering losses to the tune of crores of rupees;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to take concrete steps to check losses of Metro Railways; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) Operational loss incurred on the Project upto 199394 is approx. Rs. 43.15 crores.

(ii) Truncated nature of traffic.

(iii) Metro Projects are capital intensive and are run on socioeconomic needs and not on financial considerations. As such, certain losses are inevitable, as the fare structure needs to be kept at par with other modes of transport in the area.

(c) and (d). The following steps are being taken to increase the ridership:

(i) Publicity campaign to attract more commuters.

(ii) State Government of West Bengal have been urged to reduce the number of buses running parallel to Metro alignment and also to provide feeder bus services from Metro Stations.

(iii) Plan to complete the entire Project by 1995.

(iv) State Government of West Bengal have also been requested to provide concessional power tariff to Metro Railway at par with Calcutta Tram Services.

Accommodating the staff of Konkan Railway

4009. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to accommodate the present Konkan Railway Engineers and allied staff as Station